

TOP SECRET

OUT52048

TOP SECRET 142024Z

HFS 1 25X1
 CJS 1
 GFC 1
 DES 1
 CL Gu

1. [] HAS CONTINUALLY TRIED TO PROVIDE THE MOST ACCURATE 25X1

MEASUREMENTS POSSIBLE FROM THE SUBJECT PHOTOGRAPHY. THESE MEASUREMENTS ARE RELIED UPON HEAVILY BY TOP INTELLIGENCE AND GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL IN THEIR DECISIONS AND ACTIONS. EFFORT IS BEING DIRECTED IN EACH SEQUENCE OF EVENTS TO REFINE THE ACCURACY OF THE FINAL RESULTS. ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IS RELIABLE CAMERA ATTITUDE INFORMATION. TO DATE THE ONLY MEANS OF OBTAINING THIS ATTITUDE IS FROM THE HORIZON CAMERA IMAGES. THE PERFORMANCE OF THE S/I UNIT HAS NOT YET PROVIDED A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE HORIZON CAMERAS. [] CAN NOT TOLERATE ANY REGRESSION OF ACCURACY BY EITHER DISPENSING WITH THE NECESSARY CALIBRATION OF THE HORIZON CAMERAS OR ELIMINATING THEM COMPLETELY.

2. TO DATE, RELIABILITY, ANALYSIS OF THE S/I RESULTS, AND REDUCTION OF DATA DOES NOT PERMIT COMPLETE DEPENDENCE UPON THE S/I. EVEN IF THE S/I IS PROVEN DEPENDABLE, THE TIMELINESS OF KNOWING ATTITUDE MAY VERY WELL NECESSITATE THE CONTINUED NEED FOR HORIZON IMAGERY, BECAUSE THE REDUCTION OF ATTITUDE FROM S/I PHOTOGRAPHY REQUIRES CONSIDERABLE TIME. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE

Declassification Review by NGA/DoD

25X1

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GROUP 1
 Excluded from automatic
 downgrading and
 declassification

2

TO GURANTEE THE INSTALLATION OF THE HORIZON CAMERAS TO WITHIN ANY GIVEN LIMIT WITHOUT CALIBRATION.

3. THE HORIZON CAMERAS BEING PLACED IN J-3 ARE NEW AND HAVE NEVER BEEN CALIBRATED OR USED: THERE IS NO EXPERIENCE ON WHICH TO BASE ANY ASSUMPTIONS OR RELIANCE.

4. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY IS REQUIRED FOR CALIBRATION PROCEDURES. [] CAN NOT UNDERSTAND WHY CALIBRATION IS BEING AVOIDED WHEN THE ACCURACY OF THE RESULTS OF ALL MEASUREMENTS OBTAINED FROM A MISSION IS JEOPARDIZED BY THE ELIMINATION OF THIS CALIBRATION. 25X1

5. [] CANNOT SUPPORT CURRENT EFFORTS TO AVOID CALIBRATING THE HORIZON CAMERA. 25X1

T O P S E C R E T

END OF MESSAGE